Cruising NORFOLK ISLAND

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Burnt Pine Travel
Your Norfolk Island Travel Agent

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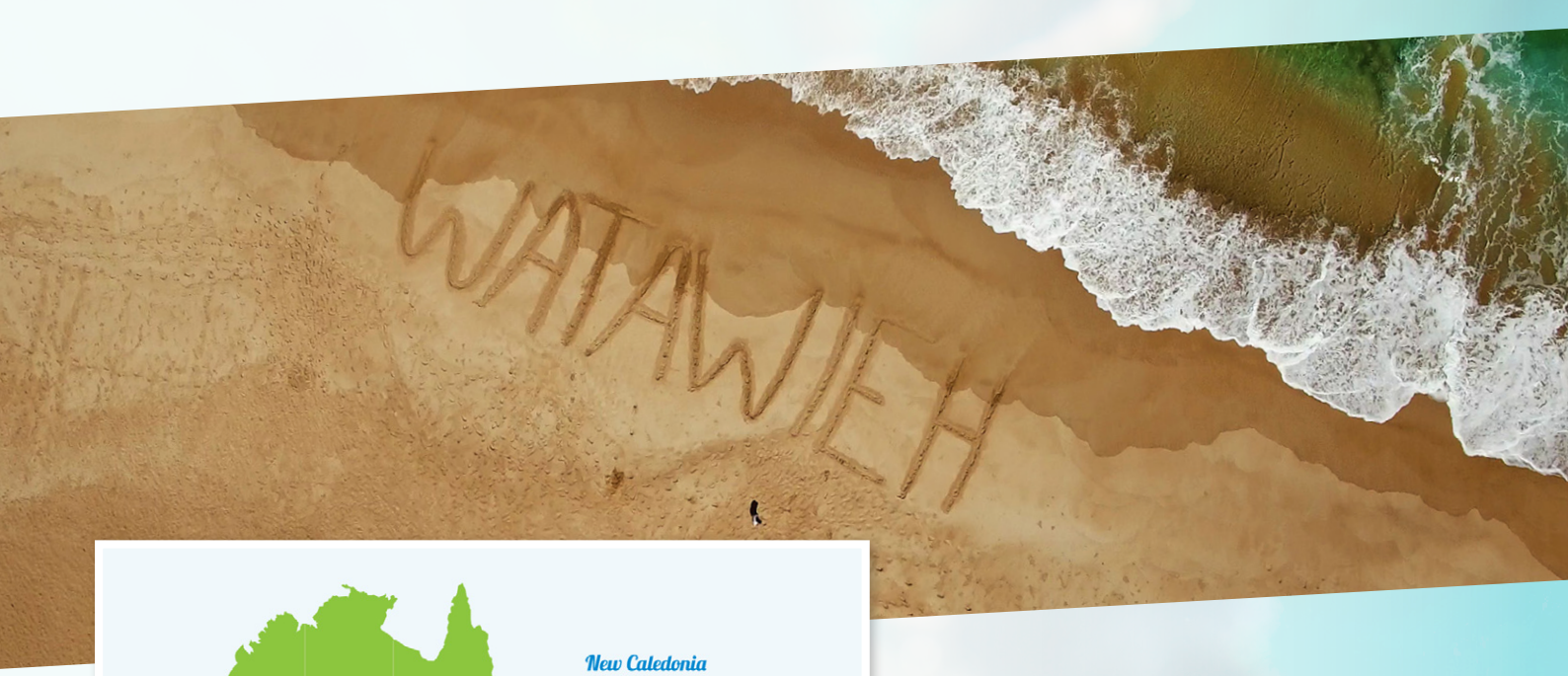


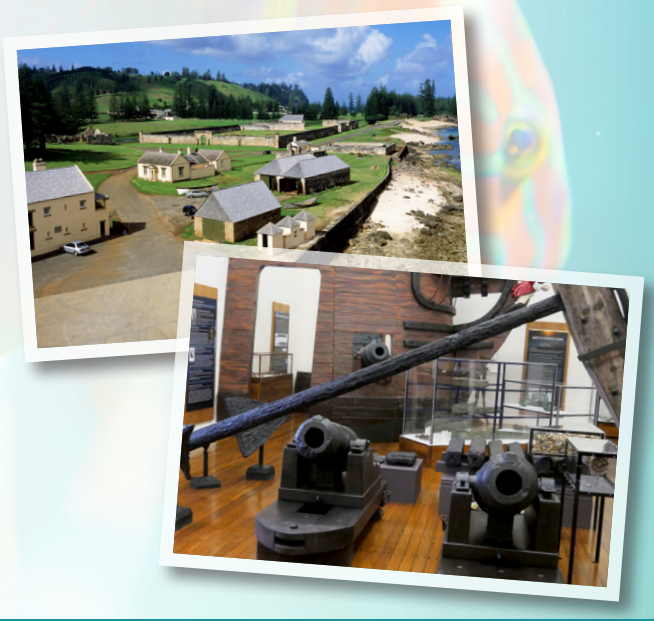
Norfolk Island is the Gem of the South Pacific. An external territory of Australia, it remains a boutique destination, relatively untouched by mainstream tourism. Today it is inhabited by 1800 people, many descended from the Bounty's Mutineers, and occupying 8km x 5km of picturesque Island landscape. It is a clean, pristine and friendly place with a rich and varied history.

Its first settlers were East Polynesians, travelling by canoe as part of the great Polynesian voyaging. A small settlement was discovered in the Kingston historical area and was excavated in the late 1990s. Artefacts from the Polynesian settlement have been discovered from the date of the first British settlement in 1788 to the present. Examination of the artefacts found place the date of settlement between 800AD and 1450AD. By the time Captain Cook adjusted his telescope to focus on Norfolk Island, the Polynesians had moved on.

You have to wonder if Cook could have envisaged how he would reshape the story of this sub tropical Island Paradise as he lay eyes upon it. Certainly he intended to make his mark on the place as he recommended to the Admiralty that it be used as a source of masts, spars and sails for a burgeoning British Navy.

Norfolk's next settlement, the First convict settlement, came as the British empire began to colonise Australia. The day after the First Fleet reached Botany Bay, a small group was selected to form the Norfolk Island colony. Britain, being engaged in the American War of Independence, needed supplies for boat building and Norfolk's abundant giant pines & flax were seen as valuable resources to be secured. The main settlement was at Kingston and lasted from 1788-1814. Settlement had the dual purpose of preventing another European power occupying the Island.

Kingston was a hive of activity with ships sailing to Norfolk carrying supplies. On the 19th March 1790 the *HMS Sirius*, flagship of the First Fleet & supply ship to both the Sydney & Norfolk Island colonies was wrecked on the Coral reef at Kingston, a devastating loss to the struggling colonies. Many of her artefacts can be viewed in the Norfolk Island Museums & today the site of the wreck is a dive site.



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The Second convict settlement began in 1824 and ended in 1856. The buildings & ruins left in the Kingston & Arthurs Vale Historic Area are remnants of this settlement. Many of the convict tales in circulation today come from this period. Often described as Hell on Earth, the second penal settlement began to wind down after 1847 and the last convicts were removed to Tasmania in May 1855.

Prior to the First Fleet leaving England events were already playing out that would shape Norfolk today. The *HMS Bounty* left England in 1787 on a mission to transport breadfruit plants from Tahiti to the West Indies. Her famous mutiny took place in the South Pacific on April the 28th 1789, with acting lieutenant Fletcher Christian & other disaffected crew putting their captain, Lieutenant William Bligh and 18 loyalists adrift in the ship's open launch. The Bounty then island hopped through the Pacific, losing crew & gaining some Tahitian natives before finally resting at Pitcairn Island in January 1790.

When Norfolk Island's second convict settlement closed down in 1855, Queen Victoria granted land Grants to the Bounty Mutineer Descendants. In 1856 The Bounty Mutineers sailed to Norfolk Island on the Morayshire, a journey of 6,000 kilometres which took 5 weeks. On the 8th June 1856, 194 people began the fourth & current settlement of Norfolk Island. They landed at Kingston to the sight of some of the finest Georgian architectural buildings, which are still standing today. The Bounty Mutineer Descendants brought with them a new language which had evolved on Pitcairn Island, a mixture of Polynesian Tahitian and old English. This language is still spoken on Norfolk Island today.

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Norfolk Island has an experienced and exceptional tourism industry being that it is the Island's major industry. Historically the primary tourism industry has been from Airline services from Australia and New Zealand. Of more recent years there has been a growth in Cruise ship calls to Norfolk. As an emerging destination on the international cruise program, Norfolk Island regularly finds itself at the top of passenger surveys following a visit and is embracing the Cruise industry enthusiastically.

When P&O pioneered cruising from Australia in 1932, the first cruise to Brisbane and Norfolk Island sold out in just one day! Although Norfolk's history of cruising stretches that far back, it wasn't until recently that the Norfolk cruise market received a kick start with Norfolk Island being added as a destination to select cruise itineraries.

There are deep anchorages close to shore and disembarkation is via ship tenders. Norfolk Island has 2 piers that serve as landing places for cruise ships with one receiving a 15 Million dollar extension this year. This was to the primary pier at Cascade on the Northern side of the Island. The second pier, located at Kingston on the Island's Southern side, is nestled amongst the historic convict penal settlement. It serves as a ready backup which is utilised regularly. Both piers provide easy access for disembarking tenders with concrete steps down to the high-water mark.

The Piers have no structural coverings or facilities so a series of 9m x 4m marquees are set up with seating, signage and passenger control barricades to ensure a safe and efficient transition from the tender to shuttles and tour departures.

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Burnt Pine Travel manages Pier set up and facilities on Norfolk Island as well as transit buses to the town, a 10-15 minute drive from either pier. Our experienced team provide a friendly, professional and knowledgeable first impression for the guests as they step onto the pier and are moved to the transit area.

Norfolk Island's investment in the cruise industry is further enhanced as the Federal Government commissioned new passenger tenders which will be online and operating on Norfolk by May 2019. Construction is under way with the first vessel nearly complete as at the end of August 2018. Use of these tenders will make disembarkation easier for visiting cruise ships by removing any risk to their tenders. It is envisaged that these tenders will be operated by Islanders who are familiar with the piers & local conditions.

Although Norfolk's involvement with the modern cruise industry is relatively new, we have catered for various ships from small expedition vessels of 150-200 passengers requiring inclusive touring such as beachside lunches and bushwalking, to high end vessels of 600-700 passengers seeking a more pampered experience such as Seabourn and Regent lines to the larger 1600-1900 passenger vessels looking for 1200-1400 tour spots in the day.

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Burnt Pine Travel has worked in conjunction with Australian inbound tour operators to create exclusive touring programs for high end cruise brands. Norfolk Island has a wide range of activities to offer visiting cruise lines. Choose from historical, cultural, food, scenic and adventure tours, numerous sporting activities, shopping, markets as well as many other options for passengers to fill a day. You'll even find that many of the people you'll encounter on the Island's tours are descendants of the Bounty Mutineers. Whatever experiences your market is seeking, Norfolk Island can tailor make an encounter that will exceed expectations.

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THERE'S LOTS TO SEE AND DO ON NORFOLK ISLAND...

Today Norfolk Island's major industry is tourism, and we've been doing it for quite a while. The result is that there is a whole host of tours for visitors to choose from.

Baunti Escapes Tour Company caters for a whole range of cruise ships from one hundred to eighteen hundred passengers, providing a shuttle service and special interest tours.

We can tailor make tours to suit your clients' needs or you can choose from the tours that have already been created for the discerning traveler. Here's a sample of what's on offer...

The Highlights of Norfolk Tour

This tour takes in the most significant landmarks. You will be transported back in time with stories of the Polynesian Settlement, Convict Settlement and the Bounty Mutineer Descendants who settled the Island in 1856, bringing with them a language which is a mixture of old English and Tahitian and is still in use today.

Convict Kingston Tour

Visit the fortress–like Military Barracks and hear stories of the former occupants, drive along Quality Row to view the elegant houses that provided quarters for military and civil officers. The heritage listed Convict Kingston area has the finest examples of Georgian Architecture in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Indulgence Tour

This tour will take you to a chocolate factory where they produce handmade chocolates. Travel to the liqueur factory at Cascade Soft Drinks where they produce 15 different types of liqueurs then travel to a picturesque location for a cup of coffee or tea.

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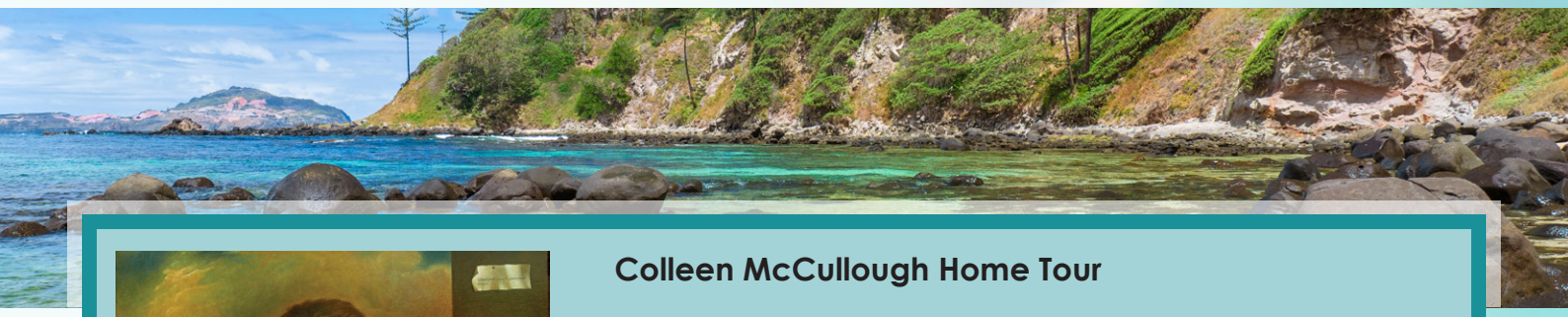

Colleen McCullough Home Tour

The world-renowned author made Norfolk Island home in 1978 and lived on Norfolk Island until her passing in 2015. Colleen created an amazing majestic home on Norfolk Island. Colleen's home was never open to the public until her passing. This is an exclusive guided tour to the author's magnificent property. You will be escorted through Colleen's majestic home and view some of her priceless collections from her travels around the world.

Island Adventures 4WD Tour

Climb aboard our 18 seater 4 x 4 bus for a pioneering adventure off the beaten tracks. A state of the art Norfolk Island experience suitable for all ages to the young at heart. Enjoy air-conditioned comfort and safety, as we share authentic insights of Norfolk's unexplored valleys, ridges, coastlines and private properties.

Coastal Scenic Trip

The Scenic Coastal trip will give you a bird's eye view of spectacular sheer cliff faces travelling on crystal clear pristine waters. This is a bird watcher delight as you will be able to observe amazing seabirds nesting in the cliff faces on the coast, Norfolk Island has 14 unique birds. You will be travelling in the comfort of a 30-foot twin hull Noosa Cat with twin diesel inboard motors and a private flushing toilet for your comfort.

Island Fish Feast

The beautifully set tables will delight you – it's the most glamorous picnic you will ever attend! And then the food! Scrumptiously fresh, local fish is prepared the local way in golden beer batter and accompanied with a range of seasonal island dishes including those passed down from our Polynesian fore-mothers. See how we make the most of our home grown produce and enjoy paddock to plate freshness. This extends even to dessert which is Norfolk Island pies made from local eggs and fruit in season. A cash bar offers wine, beer and juice.

*These are some of the tours that will make your stay on Norfolk Island so memorable and we have so much more to offer your clients. We also have a Farm and Industry Tour, Cheese Tour, Bushwalks, Glass Bottom Boat tours and more. Contact Baunti Escapes for further information or to enquire about customisation options.

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